

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 022025Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5119

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: STRUCTURE OF NEW GOVT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2034

1. JUNTA YESTERDAY (APRIL 1) NAMED THE FIVE NEW JUSTICES OF SUPREME COURT. THEY ARE: HORACIO H. HEREDIA, ADOLFO GEBRIELLI, ABE-LARDO ROSSI, ALEJANDRO ROBERTO CARIDE, FEDERICO VIDELA ESCALADA.

2. WITH APPOINTMENT OF NEW SUPREME COURT, TOP LEVELS OF NEW GOVERNING APPARATUS ARE IN PLACE. AN INNOVATION IS THE NINE-MEMBER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEADED BY ADMIRAL ANTONIO VANEK. IT WILL BE REMEMBERED THAT UNDER THE 1966-73 MILITARY GOVTS NOT ONLY CONGRESS BUT CAPITOL BUILDING ITSELF WAS CLOSED AND JUNTA, WITH ADVICE OF A FEW AIDES, PREPARED ITS OWN LEGISLATION. THAT WILL NOT BE THE CASE THIS TIME. COMMITTEE WILL BE LOCATED IN CAPITOL AND WILL DRAW UPON EXPERTISE OF LEGISLATIVE REF SERVICES AND PERSONNEL OF VARIOUS SPECIALIZED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES (EMBASSY INFORMED BY ONE MEMBER OF SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO STAY ON AS ADVISOR TO NEW LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE). JUNTA, IN TURN, WILL CONSULT WITH LEGISLATIVE COMM RE NECESSARY LEGISLATION AND COMM WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTUAL DRAFTING AND COORDINATION OF DECREES AND OTHER PIECES OF LEGISLATION.

3. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, JUNTA REMAINS SUPREME GOVERNING
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BODY. PRES IS SUBORDINATE TO JUNTA AND CAN BE REPLACED BY

2 TO 1 VOTE OF JUNTA. WE HAVE NO FIRM INDICATION AS YET OF TIME FRAME IN WHICH JUNTA IS THINKING OF RULING. PERONIST AND UCR CONTACTS WHO HAVE TALKED TO MILITARY, HOWEVER, SAY THEY HAVE IMPRESSION LATTER ARE THINKING ROUGHLY IN FOLLOWING TERMS: A) RENEWAL OF LIMITED POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITY WITHIN SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR, B) CONVOCATION OF ELECTIONS IN 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS, AND C) ELECTION IN ABOUT THREE YEARS. SOURCES ADMIT, HOWEVER, THAT THINKING OF SUBJECT IS STILL VERY PRELIMINARY AND HOW SCENARIO IN FACT WORKS OUT WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON CIRCUMSTANCES AND ON HOW POLITICAL PARTIES THEMSELVES RISE TO CHALLENGE OF REALIGNMENT AND PRESENTATION OF NEW IDEAS AND NEW FACES. HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, REORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS02227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0262
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604105/aaaadmep.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BUENOS AIRES 2034
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRUCTURE OF NEW GOVT
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006